Seismic survey and Drilling work in Rajasthan

1460. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seismic survey and drilling work in the State of Rajasthan has not been adequate despite good prospects of oil and natural gas availability in the Western Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what are the details of the seismic survey and drilling operations undertaken in the state of Rajasthan so far;

(c) whether the ONGC and the OIL have drawn up any action plan to step up the exploration work in Shahgarh depression area, Bikaner-Nagaur area, Sanchore-Barmer basin and Jiajlar sub basin areas; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) Systematic geological and geophysical surveys have been carried out by ONGC and OIL in the Rajasthan Basin. ONGC has conducted about 7,660 line kms. of conventional seismic and 14,146 SLK of Common Depth Point (CDP) Seismic Surveys after judiciously selecting areas through geological and gravity-magentic surveys. OIL has conducted about 8,400 line kms. of CDP seismic surveys during the period 1985-87. ONGC has drilled 28 wells and OIL has drilled three wells in Rajasthan Basin.

The Sanchore-Barmer Basin is included in the work of North-Combay Basin, currently being conducted under the Intensive Integrated Exploration Programme. comprising seismic surveys and exploratory drilling, with Soviet assistance. ONGC is planning to drill one parametric well in the Miajlar Sub-basin. OIL is also to drill one well this year in the Bikaner-Nagaur area.

LPG bottling plant in Jaisalmer District of Rajasthan

1461. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up any LPG bottling plant based on T gas in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to materialise; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government would consider the question?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above;

(c) The LPG requirement of Rajasthan, including Jaisalmer district, is being adequately met with the existing bottling capacity.

Incurring Heavy Losses by Public Undertakings and Corporations/Cooperative Bodies in Punjab

1462. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various public undertakings and Corporations/Cooperative bodies in Punjab are incurring heavy losses year after year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the annual losses being incurred by the Punjab Public Undertakings and various Corporations (to be shown separately) during the last three years (yearwise); and

(c) whether any official review of the working of these public undertakings and

corporations has been made by Government; if so, what are the factors responsible for the losses and the measures contemplated by Government to improve their working to make them economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) There is only one Central Public Sector Enterprise (namely Semi Conductor Complex Ltd.) with its registered office in the State of Punjab. The losses incurred by this Company for the last three years are as under:—

1985-86	Rs. 2.24 crores
1986-87	Rs. 2.13 crores
1987-88	Rs. 0.10 crores

No information is available on Corporations/Cooperative bodies in Punjab.

(c) Review of the working of Central Public Sector Undertakings is a continuous process and enterprise specific steps are taken to minimise the losses. The main reasons for losses in PSUs are time and cost overrun, low capacity utilisation, non-availability of power to the extent required, escalation in input cost, demand constraints, technology changes etc. The steps taken by the Government for improving the performance of the PSEs are given at page 174 of Volume-1 of the Public Enterprises Survey 1987-88 placed on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on 27.2.1989.

Protest against production of foreign consumer goods

1463. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Janta Dal leader has protested against the production of foreign consumer goods such as Hashbre and Barbie doll, lavatory commodes, soft drinks and similar other products which are in great demand in the country; and

(b) if so, what is government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "George Warns Coke, Pepsi" in the Economic Times of 24th January, 1989.

(b) Government policy is that Foreign Collaboration, financial or technical, is not ordinarily necessary for consumer products. However, foreign collaboration for manufacture of consumer products is considered on merits if such collaboration is justified taking into consideration the factors such as nature of technology involved, availability of indigenous technology, potential for export earnings and the like.

Ban on taking over of small indigenous Firms by Large Indian Houses

1464. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen reports regarding attempts of Nestle to swallow Campco on the lines of similar cooperation against Rowntree of U.K. as reported in the Business Standard of 19th February, 1989; and

(b) whether Government would put a suitable ban on taking over of small indigenous firms by Multinational Companies and large Indian Houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. No proposal has been received either under the Companies Act, 1956, or the MRTP Act, 1969, for acquisition of 40 per cent of the equity of proposed joint venture company by M/s. Nestle.